

Crosby Host

PRIVATE JOURNAL OF THE
BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY.

NO. II NEW SERIES
DECEMBER 1960.



PERSONAL
CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS
FROM
BING AND
LARRY
INSIDE!!

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY

Croz-talk by Frank

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Hello Members,

Most important news since the
October issue, is that on October 19th,
together with members Vera and Bob Roberts,
and John Naughan, I had a further meeting
with the one and only Bing Crosby.
During the occasion of Bing's second visit
to our shores, I felt that I must take the
chance of travelling to London in the hope
of seeing our star again - it was a great
delight to me that the journey proved so
fruitful and I know you will all be very
excited when I tell you that Bing is coming
back to England next year to make a film
and he has promised to attend a club meeting
in London at that time. His reply to my
request was "SURE, AS WE'RE MAKING A MOVIE,
THAT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME"

Subject to all plans going ahead - we shall
book a hotel room for this occasion and
all of you will be invited to make the trip
to London for this great event - We have to
keep in touch with Bing on this matter so
you can rest assured that I will do all in
my power to get this great event settled
when the dates of the event is known.
I have heard that Bing will be here in June
next year, but I shall only act on information
recieved direct from the Crosby Office.

Unique Photo Offers

I would loke to draw your attention to the exp
expanding photo section of the club and hope
you will all take advantage of the new offers
available in this issue - at the time of
going to press I have news to hand of a further
great set of 12 photos of Bing and Kathryn
taken around London during their October
visit - I will give further details of this
set in the next issue but interested members
can reserve a set by sending me 24/- now.

Until Febuary, every good wish,

Frank

AN X here Signifies that your subscription is now due. To continue
your membership, please send a 7/6 Postal Order to Frank Murphy -
IMPORTANT!! No further reminders can be sent, so please renew promptly.

To all our members we extend the compliments of this Holy and Happy Festive Season,

Frank, Jack, Tony, Cecil, Pat. Every good wish for 1961

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BING:

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD

November 25, 1960

Dear Frank;

It's a great pleasure to wish you and all members of the Society a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I Enjoyed meeting with you and other Society members while in London, and hope our association will be mutually enjoyable for years.

Sincerely,
Signed BING

AND LARRY

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD

November 3, 1960

Dear Frank,

Permit me to extend best Christmas greetings to all members of The British Crosby Society, and to their relatives and friends.

It has been a pleasure to cooperate with the Club through many interesting years, and I hope this happy association will continue for years to come.

Sincerely,
Signed LARRY

ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR MEMBERS WE EXTEND THE COMPLIMENTS OF CHRISTMAS 1960 TO BING and LARRY CROSBY and TO THEIR FAMILIES

MAY 1961 BE A CROSBY-FULL YEAR FOR BING FANS THE WORLD OVER



Noted Record & Show Mirror Columnist, Mr Georgie Wood reported the following great account of the above event;

The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede in Alberta, Canada, gets an average attendance of nearly 600,000 people in under two weeks. This was the 75th year of this fantastic show. All records were broken. V.I.P. visitor was Bing Crosby who sent the vast audience into hysterics by just being there! - He took this ovation with becoming modesty; walked towards my friend Wimpey the Clown to congratulate him on his act. Press photographers swarmed around to get pictures of the Welsh born clown with the greatest recording artiste the world has ever known.

Many Hollywood stars and celebrities visited Calgary this year, but none was as fussed over as the beloved Bing who gave all the others an object lesson in how to behave like a public idol by finding time for everybody "when all men count with you but none too much."

CLUB MEETING SUNDAY JANUARY 22nd 1961

On the above date, a club meeting is being held at the home of our President; Frank Murphy, and a cordial invitation is extended to all club members.

The meeting will commence at 1-00 PM and members should arrive from that time onwards. If you can make the meeting, please send a letter to Frank before January 18th so that an idea of how many members will be coming can be assessed.

With three new singles to review, this must be a record review for some time, and heading this impressive list is:-

MGM 1098 - "INCURABLY ROMANTIC"/"THE SECOND TIME AROUND"

The first song comes from the 20th Century Fox movie "Let's Make Love" and is given a nice latin American treatment by Pete King and his Orchestra. Bing is very relaxed and gives this beautiful song the full Crosby treatment. "The Second Time Around" is from Bing's new Fox movie "HIGH TIME" and is the best side I think. And the opening line "Love is lovelier, the Second Time Around" is so typical of the dreamy Crosby Classics of yesteryear. This is a very good single - and I might add, a very welcome one.

BRUNSWICK 05840 - HOME SWEET HOME/HAPPY BIRTHDAY-AULD LANG SYNE

A surprise single from Brunswick which was no doubt aimed at the coming festive season.

Both sides have been issued in various form before and you will all be aware of the special Crosby content on all three tunes - This disc is highly recommended for your New Years Eve, to wind up the party.

MGM 1107 - "MUSKRAT RAMBLE"/"DARDANELIA"

Bing & Satchmo with Billy May and his Orchestra. So reads the credits on this foretaste of the L.P. we hope to have very soon from MGM. Both sides are simply great and Bing and Louis are in superb form.

Though "Muskrat Ramble" has so far been receiving the most plays on Radio, my vote goes to "Dardanella" which gives us a more intimate Crosby/Satchmo

Listen to the drive in Bing's voice as he drives "We both picked up and went, toward the Orient" I really love this side.

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END OF REVIEW

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AUCTION/MART

Mr Johnny Joyce, 16, The Square, New Invention, Willenhall, Staffs, WANTED

Bing V-Discs; 16" Transcriptions; Dubs; Tapes; Bing Scrap books

I will exchange records for them, or pay cash.

I have hundreds of Bings for exchange, also Thousands of Air Shots on first class Dubs or Tapes; ie. Big Broadcast 1932; Mack Sennett Film Tracks. etc. Would like to contact members willing to swap tapes.

Mr Alan Lurie, 22, St James Rd, Salford 7, Lancs - OFFERS FOR SALE 2/6 each

01166-Out of nowhere

03932-Kiss in your eyes

03902-Whiffenpoof song

04098-Riders in the Sky

03533-Amor Amor

03758-September song

03967-Anniversary song

03618-It's been a long, long time.

03646-Sioux City Sue. 03589-A friend of yours.

03087-Only forever

03665-Things we did last summer. 04114-Siboney.

03384-White Christmas. 03647-Strange music.

03813-South America-Take it away

03010-Tumbling tumbleweeds. 03510-Hello Mom.

03801-Country Style. 04035-Far away places.

03929-Silent Night.



NEWS FROM OUR EVER ACTIVE PUBLICITY OFFICER JACK MANNERS



From GEORGIE WOOD, "Record and Show Mirror".

My Dear Mr Manners, Thanks for your very kind letter and the Crosby Post. I am returning the photographs which I am sure you will want to keep among your Crosby Souvenirs.

Best Wishes,

-:-:-:-

From ARTHUR HELLIWELL, Odhams Press Limited, London.

Dear Mr Manners,

Thank you for your letter and for letting me see a copy of the "Crosby Post". I was most interested to hear of the activities of your Society. It seems to me to be doing a first-class job - far better, in fact, than most fan clubs I have heard from. As you will have gathered from the item I wrote about Crosby's last television show here I am a great admirer - and have been so since his days with the Paul Whiteman Rhythm Boys. I am afraid, however, that I cannot write a personal piece about him for your journal as I have never found him at all co-operative over press interviews. I have been visiting Hollywood regularly since 1950 and during that time Crosby and James Mason - who, as you probably know is notoriously difficult - are the only two stars who have refused to meet me.

Yours Sincerely,

-:-:-:-

From ALAN J. CROWLER, The Decca Record Company, London.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated 29th. October. We must apologise for the delay in answering your previous letter regarding the album of "How the West Was Won". We are pleased to inform you that this album will be released in February 1961 and it will be issued in both monaural and stereophonic. We hope this information will satisfy your goodself and all members of the British Crosby Society".

Best Regards,

£

"Melody Man" NEAL ARDEN in THE PEOPLE Sunday October 23rd writes =

This is one of those rare weeks. A week of new records to set you humming and whistling. A week of MELODY! And topping the list is the king of melody himself, Bing Crosby. He gets, as he deserves, a wonderful number written by those old masters

Cahn and Van Heusen. "Incurably Romantic" (MGM). The words are simple, but clever. Same with the music. It's an art that takes many years to learn.



PAT SULLIVAN PRESENTS "AMERICAN NEWSLETTER"

Same situation this month - no news - so this note will once again take the place of a regular news letter. Thanks very much for sending the "Evening Chronicle" picture and write-up of your meeting with Bing. That picture is quite a keepsake, Frank, and I know what a wonderful thing it was to be able - finally - to meet the great man himself. Have enjoyed very much the articles in the current "Post" by the various members who met him on his London visit.

I know the members will be interested to know that the "Bing and Stachmo" LP is now available over here. It's a Project Records Inc. Production on the MGM label..E3882P. The titles are:}

Muskrat Ramble...Sugar...Preacher...Dardanella...Lets Sing Like a Dixieland Band...Way down Yonder in New Orleans...Brother Bill...Little Ol' Tune...At the Jazz Band Ball...Rocky Mountain Moon and Bye Bye Blues. The cover notes are by Johnny Mercer. Here 'tis:

"What can you say about Bing and Satchmo? They must have got to me at a very impressionable age, because no two men ever had a more ardent fan. From the time I heard Bing on "Wistful and Blue" and the marvellous vocal of "Old Man River" and listened to "Pops" swinging the "Heebie Jeebies" or "West End Blues" and "Song of the Islands" it has been a love affair between jazz music and myself. No one, no matter how hard he tried, could write all he wanted to into this album. Into it must also go the years of nostalgia, the winding trail of memorable performances that lead up to the present day. These scat singers who only incidentally happen to be champions in their own fields, have such a list of distinguished accomplishments to their credit that we oldsters only have to put the album on, sit back, and relax. Fats Waller once told me that he was walking along the street one day when he encountered Willy (the Lion) Smith. Willy's greeting was "What you say boy, ready for your lesson?" When I asked Fats his reaction, he replied, "Nothing man, I went in and took my lesson".

To the youngsters who may not be familiar with the two greats involved in this album, all I can say is "Go in and take your lesson"

Johnny Mercer.

Bing also has a new MGM single release, "The Second Time Around" (from "High Time") and "Incurably Romantic" from "Let's Make Love".

Sincerely, PAT SULLIVAN,



MEMBERS SECTION

From= Arnold Pope, 69, Pool Bank Street, Rhodes, Middleton.

Dear Frank,

Regarding your comments in the "Post" about "Join Bing and Sing Along", there is no doubt that this is a happy and infectious L.P., giving great entertainment value. Although our interest lies in the fact that it features Mr Crosby, I feel that a great deal of the credit for this record must be given to a superb vocal group, together with very fine arrangements and orchestrations. My favourite track is undoubtedly "Road to Mandalay" followed by "Old Macdonald", "Golden Slippers", "Meet me in St. Louis", Give my regards to Broadway" and "Heart of Hearts". These titles I think present Bing best, but to me he didn't sound to happy on "When I grow to old to Dream", and "When you wore a Tulip". I was disapointed Bing didn't sing "On the Banks of the Wabash" as this song is one of my all time favourites, and to my knowledge he has never recorded it. What great material this song would have made for him around 1938! Finally, let me congratulate you on being able to meet Bing in person...what a truly wonderful thrill...I felt very happy for you. This man has indeed become a legend if ever there was one and the name will live long after all the others.

From Billy Cormack, 3 Goswick Avenue, High Heaton, Newcastle.7.

Dear Frank,

I've just received my copy of Bings album "Join Bing and Sing Along", Warners WM402I. Words faile me in praise of this L.P., it's terrific! Everything about it is superb. Of these 33 oldies, my personal favourites are= "Give my regards to Broadway", "I Love you Truly", "Mary's a grand old name", "Aura Lee", and "Old Macdonald". I can see album will be spinning a lot this Christmas and New Years get togethers at my home. Now may I recommend a Bing E.P. for Christmas, namely = "The Small One" Brunswick OE9409, and of this E.P. let me say it's an ideal disc for playing on the Eve of Christmas. More so if you have a younger brother or sister. May I wish my fellow-members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

From Derek Wisdom, 77 The Drive, Tonbridge, Kent.

Dear Frank,

Not very long ago I wrote to Associated Rediffusion asking why Bing has never been on the programme "Close-Up", and I enclose the letter which I received from them. I would like to say how much I enjoyed the last "Crosby Post", particularly the article which you wrote about meeting Bing in London. I bet it was one of the most thrilling moments of your life to know that you were going to meet Bing Crosby, the greatest star that ever lived.

(Continued)

I didn't go to London Airport to see Bing arrive, but I did visit London on the Thursday, and when I arrived, the whole atmosphere was so different, to think that Bing was not very far away. I was going to where Bing was staying, but I didn't have much time. Not very long ago, High Society came to Tonbridge for the third time, and for the third time I saw it, and I must say, even then the cinema was pretty full, so it just goes to show Bing is still popular with the public.

++++

from Associated Rediffusion.

Dear Mr Wisdom,

Thank you for your letter. Unfortunately Mr Crosby as a general rule does not like to do 'live' television programmes, and though you may see him on a News item, it is very unlikely that we should be able to have him for a programme.

From Ian C. Arnott, 21 Rosefield Street, Dundee.

Dear Frank,

I received your letter O.K., and I see by it that you have seen Bing again; you will certainly have some rare memories to tell your friends about. I see there is a possibility of Bing attending a Club meeting if his present plans of filming in London go ahead.

I would make a great effort to be at the meeting if there was a chance to meet Bing in person. I read Jack Manners letter in the Record Mirror today and thought it was very interesting. It gave Bing a good build up without distracting the merits of any other singer. I don't know whether you hear Housewives Choice, Frank, but this past fortnight Brian Rix has been playing the records, and he has had Bing on practically every morning. I bought "Second Time Around" last week, and I think that this is one of the best records Bing has made for a long time; given good publicity backing, I think that they would have a good chance of reaching the top 20.

EDITORS NOTE- "Here is an interesting gem from the past. It's a letter my good friend Marie Robertson, of 12 Angle Terrace, High Howdon, Wallsend, received from Bing way back in 1936! Marie thought you would like to read it, and our thanks go to her for allowing us to do so."

Dear Miss Robertson, Glad to hear from you. I appreciate knowing how my efforts are received and I welcome any suggestions. I sincerely hope you will like my last picture, "Pennies from Heaven". It is a little different from anything I've done so far. I expect to start working on a new picture soon at Paramount. I also hope you like my broadcast on the Kraft Music Hall every Thursday evening and that you enjoy the guest stars I have each time. The Picture is being sent under separate cover. Best Wishes, and many thanks for your interest. Season's Greetings, (signed) BING.

Members Section Continued =



From FRED REYNOLDS, 39 Heathmere Avenue, Yardley, Birmingham 25.
(extract of letter to Frank on October 25th. 1960)

"I was greeted by Bing in the foyer of the Savoy Hotel. At the reception desk I asked to see Mr Crosby, and the porter said "Mr Bing Crosby?", "Is there another?" I asked him and he grinned and took the note I written for Bing. I sat down at a table and waited. I had hardly looked around when I saw Bing walking towards me. What a moment for me this was! We shook hands, and he said "Mr Reynolds from Birmingham?" He was wearing a brown velvet jacket, flannels, trilby and held a pipe. He looked very well, a little slimmer than I had expected, and I observed his light blue eyes, and his casual relaxed manner...just as we all know it. We had a little chat, and I felt perfectly at ease with him. He told me a little ceremony had been arranged by West Indians who were forming a rehabilitation centre in London for their countrymen. He then fetched the two West Indians, Mr John Francis and Mr M. Tahir (an ex-Cyprus Police Officer, and introduced them and also his public relations officer Miss Tweedy. A Press Association photographer joined us, and Bing led me off with the others. I asked him if I might report the presentation ceremony to the "Post", and he said "Thats a fine idea". We walked along several corridors into the interior of the Hotel. Bing said that Mrs Crosby would not be present as she had gone shopping. We reached a lobby where there stood a table holding a set piece floral decoration. Whilst the camera was being set, Bing showed me the silver cigarette box with which he was being presented. It was beautifully designed and he was very pleased with it. He was in great form, very cheerful, and making jokes with each of us. When the photographer was ready Bing advised Mr Francis as to the best way to pose, and the picture was taken of the presentation. The group then broke up and the photographer started to pack up, but Bing said "Now take one with Mr Reynolds" and he held his arm towards me. This was a very proud moment. I stood with Bing and he lightly put his arm across my shoulder, and the picture was taken. Bing then told him to send me the photograph.

I walked back with Bing to the foyer and he told me that "Tex" and Mary Francis were fine. Tex had learnt to swim. He signed my copy of "Call me Lucky", shook hands, and we walked across to the doors. He stepped across to a very large fawn coloured Rolls, gave me a cheery wave before getting in, and then was driven away.

I had been with Bing just half-an-hour!?

I have since recieved two copies of the photograph, and I am fully delighted at the great honour of being photographed with Bing.

In conclusion I would like to tell members who have not met Bing, and as you know yourself, Frank, he lived up to and even exceeded MY every expectation."

DISCUS ON DISCS.....from Newcastle Journal. October 7th 1960

I sometimes wonder whether the idols of today's teenagers will hold their popularity with their generation and those following as have Bing Crosby and Victor Silvestor, Mantovani and others.

The Tommy Steeles may easily do so...but overnight record stars may well accompany rock 'n roll in the lingering death which looks like overtaking it. Bing and contemporaries like Goodman, remain disc spinners. So do Silvester and Mantovani. In fact Bing holds the world record for any one disc.... "White Christmas" has sold more than any



PHOTO SECTION



EXCLUSIVE OFFER? DON'T DELAY! ORDER NOW!
11 PHOTOGRAPHS OF BING AND KATHRYN BY
BRENARDS PRESS LTD. at LONDON AIRPORT.
LARGE SIZE 8" X 6" HIGH GLOSS FINISH.
The complete set costs £1 post free.
Single photos cost 2/6 each, post free.

BE SURE NOT TO MISS THESE REALLY GREAT PHOTOS! SEND FOR YOURS.

+++++

The following glossy post card photos can be obtained for only
1/6 each post free :-

1. Bing Crosby-frank Murphy-Jack Manners at Claridges Sept 1st.
2. Bing with Rosemary Clooney, Louis Armstrong and the Hi-Lo's.
3. Bing with "TEX".
4. "TEX" with Mary Frances and Dennis's little girl Dixie Lee.
5. Bing in a scene from "The Emperor Waltz".
6. Bing in a scene from "A Yankee in King Arthurs Court".

Deliverrey about 2 to 10 days depending upon stock.

Order from= PHOTO SECTION,
The British Crosby Society,
15 Grosvenor Gardens,
High Howdon, Wallsend,
Northumberland.

Postal Orders
payable to
" Frank Murphy
High Howdon "

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Mrs Kathleen Golder of 110 Shell Road, Lewisham,
London, S.E.13, can supply details of a charming
Blazer Badge which incorporates the words "British
Crosby Society", and designed in BLUE and GOLD.

Please enclose a S.A.E. when writing to our
Member Kathleen.

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ABOVE SPECIAL OFFERS....NOW.....
THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANOTHER CHANCE!

ALTERNATIVE TAKES BY BOB ROBERTS

Sometime ago I promised Frank I would write a few lines on the above subject. Although I am no expert on this matter, I can claim to have spent many hours interesting checking of various takes. I am sure Les, Derek, Stan, Eric and many other members must know a great deal more than I do on this interesting subject, and I sincerely hope that they will correct me if I should make any errors. Some of the alternative takes can be spotted at once but others take quite a long time to check and re-check and even after several hours of careful listening there may be some doubt as to what the difference is. A slightly faster or slower speed or a longer pause between two words is only the difference in some cases.

There are many alternative takes, but I will deal only with those that I have actually checked myself, and I will try to cover two comparisons in each issue of our great magazine providing there is sufficient interest shown and space is available. All records mentioned are English unless otherwise stated.

What could be better to start the ball rolling than the following two great numbers ?

"WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT"

MASTER E 37373

23/11/1931

Take "A" issued on Brunswick LA 8741

Bing sings.... "and RETURN to the long ago"...

Take "B" issued on Brunswick 02315

Bing sings... "and GO BACK to the long ago.....

"BLUE PRELUDE"

MASTER B 791

13/6/1933

Take "A" issued on Brunswick 01577

Bing sings.... "what is love BUT a prelude to sorrow"....

Take "B" issued on Fontana TFR 6000

Bing sings.... "what is love JUST a prelude to sorrow".....

BING'S "PLATINUM DISC"

The Presentation of the Platinum Disc was made to Bing Crosby on the 9th. of June 1960, in Hollywood. This was presented by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. "To BING CROSBY, First Citizen of The Recording Industry, whose unparalleled sales of more than 200 Million records is greatly responsible for the recording business becoming one of Americas great industries. In respect and Gratitude. Hollywood Chamber of Commerce". The title on the disc is one of Bings all-time "greatest" - - "WHITE CHRISTMAS".

"PENCIL PHUN!"

BY C.A. WESTROPE

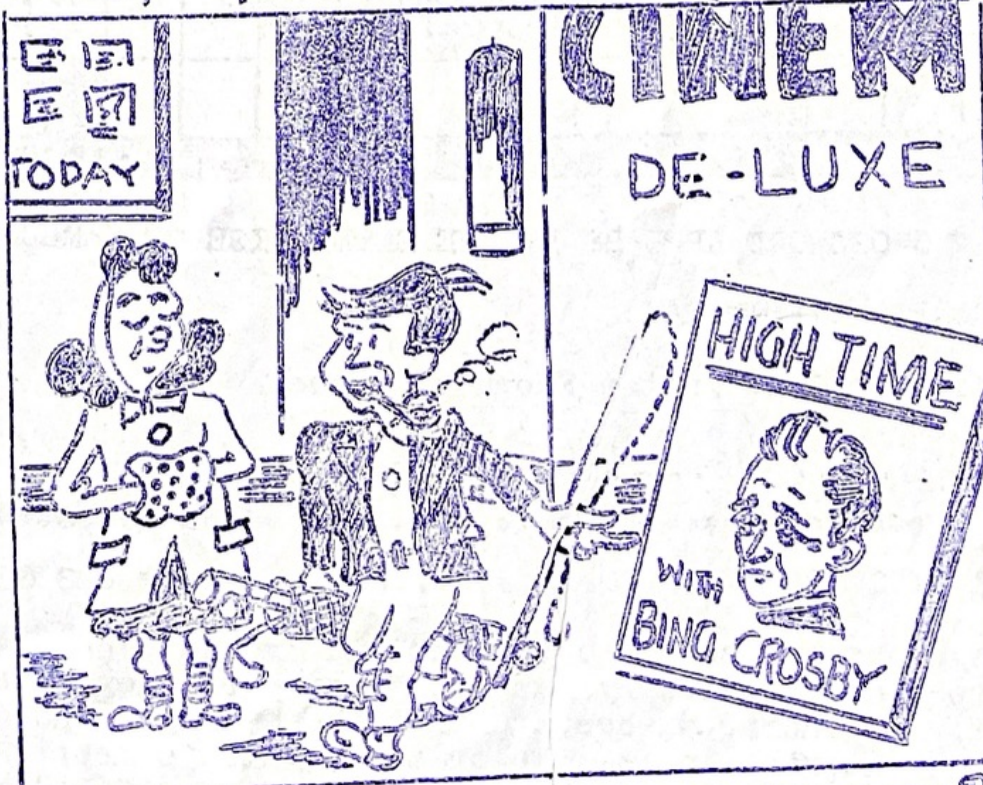
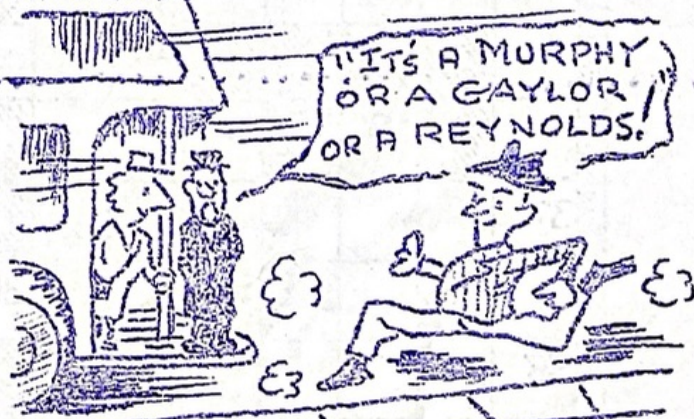


THE
YOUNG
MR. CROSBY

1936!



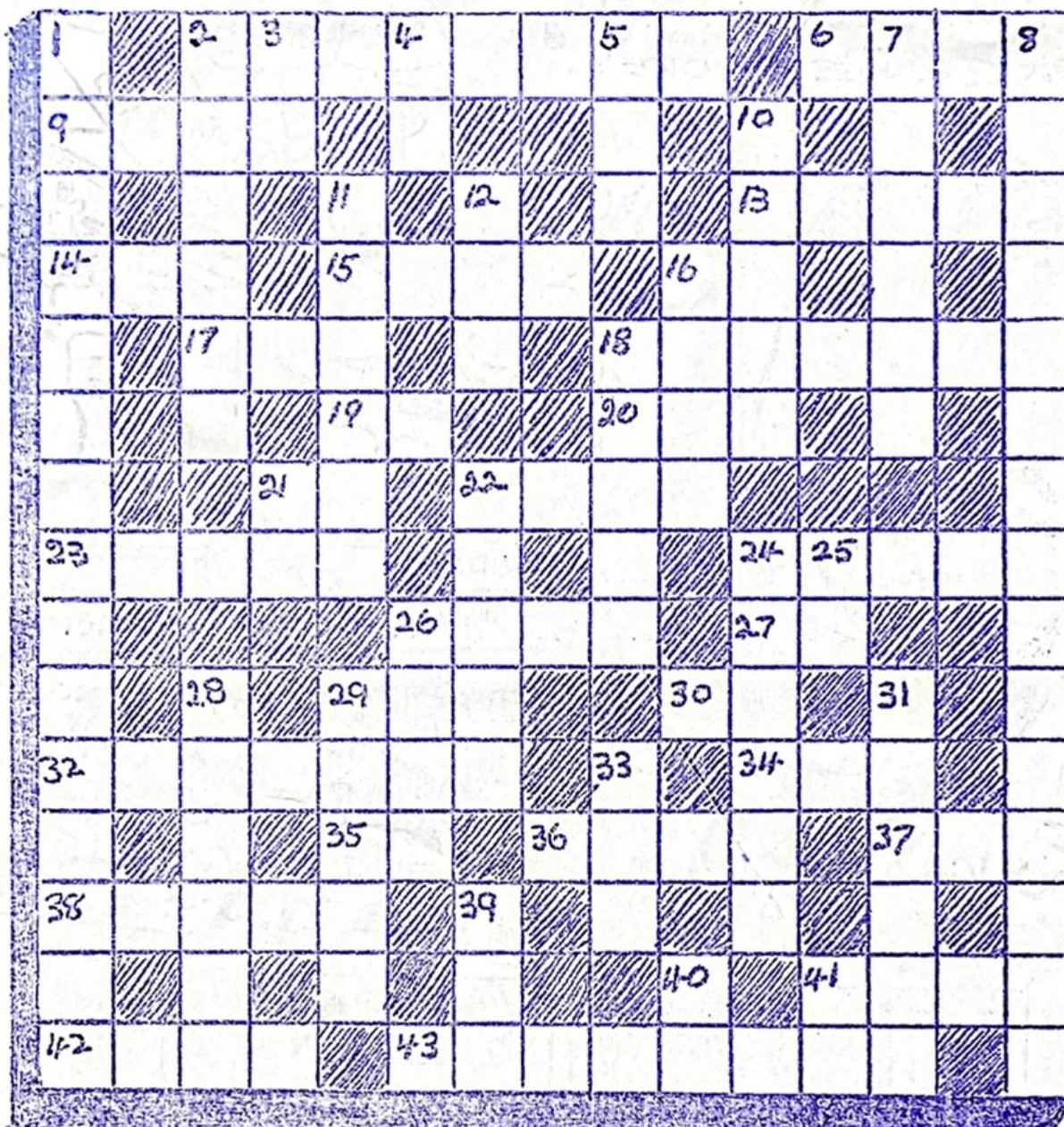
TO
CLARIDGES



"WHAT'S HE GOT THAT I HAVEN'T GOT?"

"BRUSH UP YOUR BING"

14.



THIS GREAT CROSSWORD APPEARS BY THE ENTERPRISE OF MEMBER
FRED REYNOLDS (BIRMINGHAM).

The solution will be in the February issue.

CLUES ON PAGE 15

NOTES ON THE DISCOGRAPHY.....by LES GAYLOR

The Discography has now come to hand and my due thanks are given to Stan White and Frank Murphy for the great part they have played in producing it, my sincere wishes are that those of you who obtain it will find some interest in it. One or two points to mention are that on the Bing - Satchmo L.P. the Master No. of 60XY 100 bears the title "sugar". The recording date for "South America Take It Away" is that

APR 11 5 16

ACROSS

- 2 Dinah is an old one and twice I never knew (8)
 6 26 across on drums when Bing's with this (4)
 9 Little company with the French pianist (4)
 13 Get in the groove with Bings L.P's. (5)
 14 The Rose that's worth a large bouquet strangely enough (3)
 15 A fine state to be in for this recording (4)
 16 "It could happen..you" (2)
 17 Bings woodworker announcer for many years (3)
 18 It had to be you accompanying Bing (7)
 19 Bing recorder this after you (2)
 20 In "I'd rather be Me" (3)
 21 United Artists (Abbrev) (2)
 22 Bing had to do this after "Mississippi" (4)
 23 The best of them all, yet unfamiliar (5)
 24 Let's start like this on January 1st. (5)
 26 Autobiographical Drummer (4)
 27 Helpless beginning (2)
 29 In "My Kinda Love" (and Gary is Bings) (3)
 30 Bing left this sugar to get wet (2)
 32 Belie an evident mix-up deep in the heart of Texas (7)
 34 Straight down the middle from here (3)
 35 That is (2)
 36 Magnolia mentions a sister (4)
 37 He's in "The natural thing to do" (3)
 38 How this can be black with the aid of the moon, it's hard to see (5)
 41 A fairy sounds like Bings friend Como (4)
 42 In every Orkney Island (4)
 43 Sad trust for Bings favourite (8)

DOWN.

- 1 He'll yet have a coin scrambled as a standby for "Old Blue"
 (4 words-4,2,3,6.)
 2 Tomorrow will need to be Bings lucky day if he uses these (6)
 3 Hallo young lovers start off (2)
 4 Extreme limits of the place Bing tells a story of (2)
 5 Half the lady's speech apparently-and the other half isn't much
 different (3)
 7 If Bing's a prisoner of love, this is a remedy-but it seems that
 he can't from you (6)
 8 We join Bing-but only for this goodbye? (3 words-4,4,7.)
 10 And in during the afternoon? (2 words-2,3.)
 11 From this on three recording dates, two matrix numbers (6)
 12 Erstwhile room-mate of Bings who was more at home with 18 across (3)
 16 A vehicle for Bing and partner in the mud? (4)
 18 I'm confessing a new one (5)
 21 Ancient city (2)
 22 Bing did with the Mills Brothers (5)
 24 A king had it and some boys too-not only on the river (6)
 25 Same as 35 across (2)
 26 Bings favourite is the pirates. How about you? (4)
 28 Twilight advice from Bing (6)
 29 Half of circuit on which an irresponsible trio toured (5)
 31 The apple for the teacher? (6)

- 35 No language is necessary here (5)
 39 Start in reverse for "The Fine Step" (3).
 40 That first part of 25 down (2)
 41 This would come at the end (2)

VERA ROBERTS WRITES STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS!



I believe I am the only female member of the British Crosby Society who had the great honour to meet Bing whilst he was in London, and therefore I feel sure that our lady members would like a woman's impression of him.

The first thing that struck me were his clothes. It was about 6.30 p.m. when he came down to see us, and most of the people in the hotel were dressed in evening wear. Bing came on the scene wearing a light sports jacket, grey trousers, white shirt and a quiet tie, plus, of course, the "hat". Yet strangely enough I could not have imagined him wearing anything else.

Next, the handshake which was firm and sincere, the casual way that he sat down with us and the immense interest that he took in everything that was said. He took a pair of spectacles from his shirt pocket to take a closer look at some snaps that Frank had handed to him. I have never seen Bing wearing spectacles before, and this did seem to add to the interest that he was showing.

He apologised for keeping us waiting! And Bob said "He would have waited all night if necessary". Then, before the final hand-shake I handed him a small gift and I shall never forget the look of pleasant surprise on his face as he accepted it and said "Thank you-thank you very much".

I came home with the feeling that Bing really enjoyed meeting us and for this great man to spare us some of his valuable time is very typical of his whole personality.

Bob and I are very proud of our copy of "Call me lucky" which is now autographed "To Bob and Vera-Bing Crosby".

To obtain your copy of the 2nd part of the LP and EP Discography, just send a 2/- P.O. to Frank Murphy.

New Members can obtain Parts 1 and 2 by sending 4/- P.O. With the issue of this discography, the Society places at the disposal of its members, the first ever, complete list of every Bing LP and EP ever issued in this country. ORDER NOW!



THE

by TED LAKER

17.

Magic Voice

OUR OLD FRIEND

CONTINUES HIS

MUCH ENJOYED SERIES —

" JOIN BING AND SING ALONG "

At long last this session of 33 songs with Bing leading the vocals has been issued here. So, here, for what they are worth, are a few comments of mine, on the various tracks that go to make up this great Long Player.

A very lively chorus backs the Crosby songs, and between them, at times, some quite effective harmonising is indulged in. Bing also does a spot of whistling on a few numbers, and throws in a little sly ad-libbing. But I'm rushing things a bit...so let's put the record on and start with:- "Take me out to the Ball Game". The chorus starts this one going, then in comes Bing with a happy sounding vocal, a very short snappy item, but a very good start to the proceedings. Next in line is "Meet me in St. Louis", and the lead in is once more by the chorus.

But Crosby is not far away, and comes in quite strongly with nice relaxed manner. Bing is in form from the word go on "Peggy O'Neill", then the treatment is varied a bit with Bing alternating with the backing chorus, finishing with a vocal against a hummed chorus.

Following this we have another short number "K-K-K-Katy" which is treated first by the chorus, then Bing alone. "Mairzy Doats" is a nice steady number, with professor Crosby giving an explanation of the apparently strange words, and managing to turn in another winning vocal. "Old MacDonalds Farm" is given quite a hectic treatment, the chorus have a lot of work with the various animal noises, Bing just contents himself with the "EE-I-OHS", until the last stretch when he branches out a little finishing on a real low note. A rather sad little tune follows on "Aura Lee", first chorus it takes it slowly, then Crosby very expressive with a gentle accompaniment. I rate this as one of the high spots on this side. Now comes a close harmony number, "Cuddle up a little closer". A kind of shuffle rhythm is evident in most of this song, quite effective too. A little of the Crosby humour is worked in also, with a few instructions as to the dance routine.

"The Bowery". A banjo is well in evidence on this tune, and the Crosby voice takes the song through casually making for another enjoyable track. "After the Ball". Once again the chorus start the tune rolling, until Crosby starts, and makes for a nice finish to this tuneful piece. Another high spot of this disc for me is "Long, Long Ago" with Bing using that lazy deceiving tone that suits his performance on a somewhat romantic ballad. Bing takes a breather in the next one, "Banks of the Wabash", but the hard working chorus give this old pop tune a nice work out. "Seeing Nelly Home". Quite a fast paced song with infectious beat.

Crosby gets off to a flying start with "Shoo Fly", a number full of zip, with everybody sounding as though they're really enjoying a grand time. That seems to be the mood prevailing throughout the whole record, too. More whistling brings us to "Them Golden Slippers" and another fast vocal treatment. Now we come to the last number on side ONE, "The Road to Mandalay". The chorus get things under way, then Bing joins in, with great respect for this famous old song. He takes it almost in a straight manner, and pitches shade higher than he does with other humbers on this side. "You're a grand old Flag", voice coming over well against a whistling background, a nice treatment, but all too brief. "When you wore a Tulip". Chorus start things moving with Bing injecting a few odd lines, plus a couple of ad-libbed kind of comments. He finishes up singing against stop chords to complete an unusual arrangement. A happy little tune "You were meant for me" is next in line, chorus run through it once. Then Mr Crosby finishes the number against stop chords to round off a neat performance. With "Goodbye my Lady Love", Bing pulls out another smart vocal. Next with "Linger Awhile", Bing does a spot of whistling, with a few variations on the melody, then the famous voice only for a short spell through.

"Heart of My Heart". Here comes good one, banjo is well to the fore, tune suits Bing very well. Once again the finish is against stop chords, finishing on a real low note. "Doodle-ee-doo" has everybody in at the start, then Bing carries on alone to run this catchy little number to a close. Bing is absent in "Alice Blue Gown" and "I Love you Truly". "When I Grow too old to Dream"...a real tear jerker here. Crosby gets in early and stays the course. I think he is guilty of straining a little here, though. A rousing Hot Time in "The Old Town Tonight" is given a going over next, once through with chorus, then Crosby goes it alone. "Toot-Toot-Tootsie". Chorus start a shuffle rhythm going, then Bing whistles awhile before singing the words. There's a proper Ricky Tick treatment on this old Jolson favourite, and the number closes with the team doing a high ride out.

Lastly, we have "Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-Der-Ay" the old music hall routine is given a smart work out. But Bing has already deserted the scene leaving the chorus to wind things up.

Well, I hope the above rambling article will give some idea of what's in store for you on this L.P. Believe me, there is a whole heap of enjoyment to be had from it.....

DON'T MISS!!

THE JAN-FEB ISSUE OF THE
MONTHLY "POPULAR HI-FI" FOR
THE SOCIETY IS MENTIONED IN
A GREAT ARTICLE ON BING—
BY OUR OWN STAN WHITE!

2/- FROM LEADING NEWSAGENTS



Les Gaylor

writes

My meeting with Bing came very surprisingly it seems, as I was tipped off by a telegram on Friday October 14th from Mr Charles Graves the columnist and author, who is perhaps, Bings greatest friend in Britain. Mr Graves was also sending me a number of letters whilst Bing was in Europe, and I knew just where Bing was. The telegram read like a dream come true, it said "Telephone Crosby personally Savoy Hotel.Graves". and at 5.35 I managed to phone the hotel, only to get the message that Mr Crosby was taking no calls until 6.15 pm., and naturally, I was there on the "dot"! After phoning, I was put through to Bings room with all the ease in the world. That most familiar voice answered "Bing Crosby speaking"...and those words were just wonderful to my ears. All of you can just imagine the way I felt, so explaining who I was, Bing replied "Hullo, Leslie", and I asked him if I could come to London to see him. With a chuckle, he said, "Well, what do you want to see me for?". After telling him I was a great fan of his, he said "Can you come up tomorrow, late afternoon, and I'll look out for you?". After bidding each other Goodnight, I went home to try to eat some tea, but this was difficult, and I failed to get any sleep that night wondering if I would see him or whether luck would not be my way.

Eventually, I arrived in London, and after sorting myself out in the "Enquiries", I sat down in a very easy chair and waited. The time came when one of the porters who knew I had come to see Bing, hurried in and said "He's here"! So looking through the glass doors I could see Bings familiar outline, as he had his back to me, hat worn on the back of his head, and with a mackintosh on as he had just returned from a game of golf. I went to the enquiries to sort out the procedure as to whether he went to his room or that I would approach him. They thought things over, and being as I had made an appointment, suggested that I meet him when he came in. As soon as he came through the door I saw he was looking around, I went forward said "Hallo, Mr Crosby, I've come up to see you" and he said "Are you the fellow from the Isle of Wight, Leslie Gaylor". After affirming that I was, he said "Glad to meet you, let's sit down and have a talk, shall we?". Bing chose a table, and I had about 25 minutes with him. We talked records, Louis Armstrong, "Tonight" (the B.B.C T.V. programme) "Whats my Line", and unissued records etc. They had approached him to be on "What's my Line" but he said he was going to see a doctor about his cold before it got worse. I found myself automatically calling him "BING", and a most amusing moment was when he was trying to tell me eight of the twelve titles on the "Bing-Satchmo" LP. It helped him to sing and whistle the tunes to get the titles which he wrote down for me on the back of an envelope. Four in all! One title he could not think of, amused me; as he looked up to the ceiling and said "Now what the hell is the name of that tune"? I managed to get eleven autographs, and on a record cover he wrote "To Leslie Gaylor..Many thanks for your efforts on my behalf." Bing, London 1960.

(Continued over)

He told me he would not be packing up yet, which pleased me very much, as I had explained about the many fans who collect his records over here. He replied "I'm sure glad I made all those records".

To me, Bing is without a doubt, an easy going type as you are ever likely to meet; he seems not to have a care in the World. As he left me, he strolled away whistling, and I thought to myself, what a casual man! He is indeed, a terrific personality, and I really do wish more persons could have seen him. All the mail that was addressed to him at "Villa D'Este" Lake Como, Italy, was returned to me, including a letter from our President Frank Murphy requesting that Bing would meet the Members. For some unknown reason, none of the mail was opened, which included three letters from Mr Graves himself. In this short space, I hope I have conveyed to you my impressions of meeting the "one and only" Bing. It was wonderful, indeed.

I would like to add that I was showing Bing some correspondence I had had with record companies, his brother Larry, his managers letters in music papers etc., to try to convey to him of my interest. I could well see he was very interested. At a later date when he met Mr Graves on several occasions, my enthusiasm etc came up in conversation between them, and Mr Graves tipped me off that a "plot" had been arranged about my meeting Bing. Well, this has now been revealed to me, and I am the proud owner of a cheque from Bing for ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS to cover expenses(?) re my interest in him, which I have done only because it is a great hobby. What a grand gesture from a great man to just one of his ordinary fans!

By the time you have read this, Bing should be well into his album of "I-I Gang Songs"....a "Sing Along" type of recording. I'd like to say that I feel we will get a better "Bing" release in 1961. the Bing-Satchmo LP., the "How the West was Won" LPs., and the Don Bingo LP., plus the Gang Songs.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF WISHING ALL MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS, AND A BRIGHT NEW YEAR!

=====

P.S. from TED LAKER: "A short while after the new Crosby "High Time" opened in London, a review of this film with a few misleading touches appeared in the "Daily Mirror". I wrote the critic concerned, and his reply is as follows" T.L.

"Dear Mr Laker,

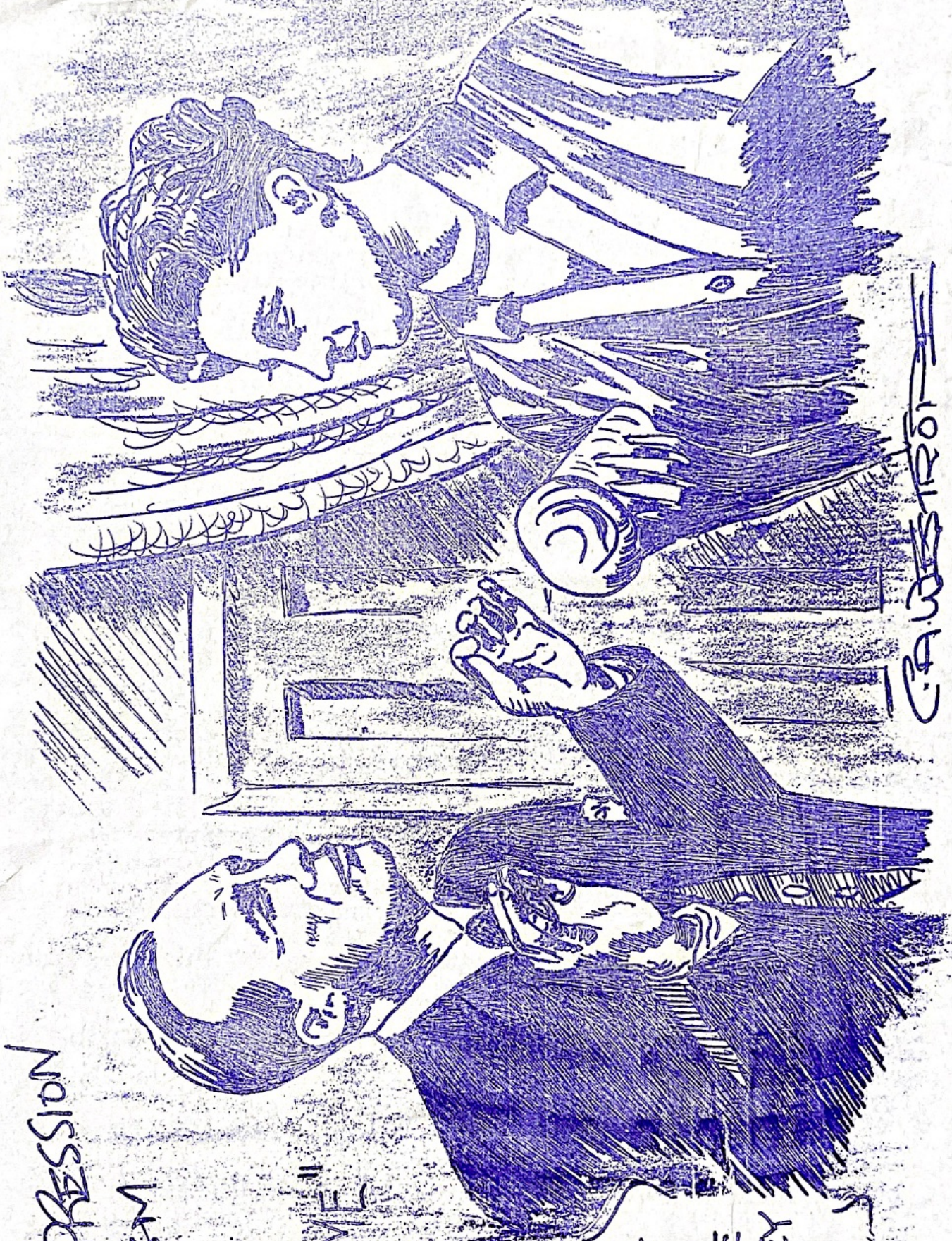
I don't know whether you've yet seen High Time, but if so I am sure you enjoyed it if you are a Bing Crosby admirer. It seemed to me to be pleasant escapism. I am afraid my review was cut, and so I wasn't able to deal much with Bing's singing. He doesn't do very much, but I thought his rendering of "Second Time" was a typically relaxed piece of Crosby vocalising. The writer of an article in a newspaper is never responsible for the headlines, and I agree that the one chosen by the features editor was a shade misleading.

I agree with you that it will be a bad news when Bing Crosby really "salls it a day."

Yours Sincerely,

DICK RICHARDS.

"Daily Mirror"



CAUTION

WASH
POST

"HIT"
TIME

BING
WITH
NICOLE
MAUREY

SPOTLIGHT

ON BING'S EARLY RECORDINGS by ERIC GRIFFITHS

"Christmas is a-comin'", and once more the opportunity to dust off the appropriate discs and play them!

Last year I dealt with "Silent Night", so let's turn over the disc where we invariably find the "Adeste Fideles". The date of the first commercial recording is noted as 12.11.35, with 'the Guardsmen' and orchestra of Victor Young.

A and B Masters issued on Brunswick 02054. The second version only appeared on a American Decca, White label-Special Issue, as one of three tracks, with Organ Accompt.

The other two titles being LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS and STABAT MATER.

Matrix is B2078a. I have never been able to confirm recording date, but it is believed to be around the middle 30's. The Max Terr Choir joined Bing in the third and best known issue with John Scott-Trotter and his Orchestra. The

date is 8.6.42 Brunswick 03929 and some on 02054X. Also LP-LA8686 (Merry Christmas) and EP-OE9069. All "A" masters.

Strange to relate, unlike "Silent Night" and "White Christmas", this has not been re-recorded of recent years.

In the Non-Commercial department, the following "V" Discs include "Adeste Fideles" - Army Issue 44I (Navy 22I) also 796. In the latter the audience joins in with Bing.

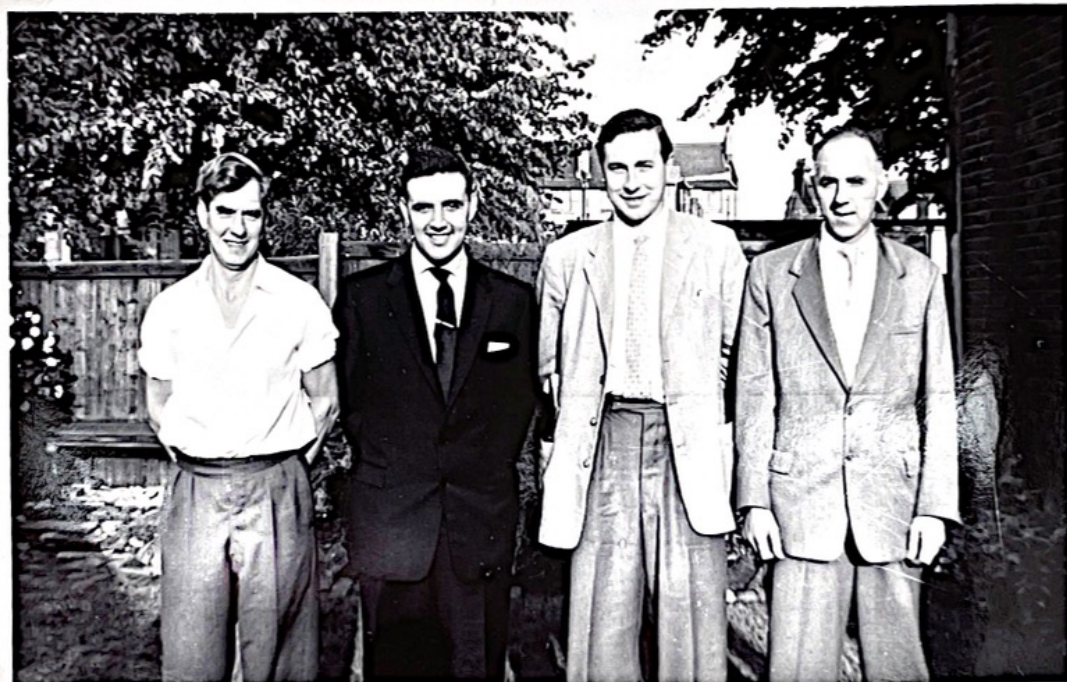
It looks as if we should be getting a number of new recordings in the near future - if the English recording companies don't "Sit-on-them", and many more Bing discs is "JUST WHAT I WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS".

I wonder if we will get that one this year...for one?

To all Society members "A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS" !

DON'T FORGET THE
SPECIAL PHOTO OFFER
ON PAGE 11.

How's this for a quartet of Crosby collectors; left to right;
Jack Manners, Frank Murphy, Stan White, Les Gaylor.



By the way, the photo was taken in Jack's garden, at the meeting earlier this year. A complete set of 4 photos taken at the meeting will be made available by Photo section in February.

RECORD OFFERS.

The Bing Crosby Show - BBC TV Nov 9th - Guests; Dean Martin, Patti Page & Mahalia Jackson

The Bing Crosby Show - BBC TV November 30th - Guests; Rosemary Clooney, Johnny Mercer - The Crosby Boys

Each 12" L.P. costs 35/- post free, and to order, send this amount direct to Frank Murphy - Please do not cross Postal orders - Closing date - Jan 9th

THE BING CROSBY TOURNAMENT LICENCE PLATE

Great interest continues in the fascinating licence plate which Frank received from Larry sometime ago, and it has been decided to auction this in aid of club funds. The plate is strongly made of metal, and is attractively designed with a photo of Bing. It comes direct from one of Bing's own golf cars and is well worth a place in any Crosby fan's collection of souvenirs - Mail your bid direct to our Publicity Officer Jack Manners and the lucky member will be notified in due course.

Part Two of the booklet - THE LONG PLAYING MR CROSBY by Leslie Gaylor is now available direct from Frank Murphy for a blank 2/- Postal Order. This great booklet lists all L.P. & E.P. discs issued in England since 1958. New members can obtain the complete Discography for 4/- and which is complete from the advent of the L.P. era - AVAILABLE NOW.